HUMAN RESEARCH DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC
WITH FEW EXCEPTIONS, ALL IN-PERSON HUMAN SUBJECTS RESEARCH IS SUSPENDED. This suspension applies to both domestic and international research.

The COVID-19 Pandemic has led to the closing of all but essential services, and social distancing is the mandate in New York City, New York State, and elsewhere. Most in-person research poses an unnecessary risk to human subjects as well as to the researchers.
Examples of research activities that must be paused

All face-to-face interactions or interventions with participants must pause, with limited exceptions. The pause includes studies conducted outside of the University, at both domestic and international sites.

Studies that require participants to travel to and enter an NYU laboratory

Face-to-face interviews/focus groups

Home visits with participants, or face-to-face meetings at other locations, even if data are collected via computer or recording
WHAT RESEARCH CAN CONTINUE?

Investigators may screen for and recruit participants for future in-person research remotely and obtain consent remotely as well.

Some studies may be carried out remotely from initial screening, recruitment & consent through data collection.
Approved Remote Research Activities Can Start immediately During COVID-19

Remote recruitment and screening → Remote consent → Remote data collection

Remote screening and recruitment → Remote consent

In-Person Research Activities can be Approved But are Suspended/paused During COVID-19

In-person recruitment and screening → In-person consent → In-person data collection

In-person data collection
Recruitment during COVID-19 must avoid potential harm to study subjects. Rather than posting or handing out flyers in public places, consider email announcements, advertising on electronic bulletin boards such as Craigs list, or in e-publications, or posting on relevant online social media groups.
Remote Informed Consent

Consider obtaining consent by providing research information and the consent document by phone or video-chat and documenting consent by e-signature, email/fax, or text or photo image or a combination of these methods. If your study is minimal risk to study subjects, request a waiver of consent documentation when you submit your research for IRB review.
Primary data collection activities during COVID-19 should not involve in-person interactions as it may spread the virus and cause harm to study participants and others. To the left are a few of the approved methods for conducting remote primary data collection.

There are other types of allowable data collection methods as well:

- diary studies where participants log into a site at specified times,
- pre- and post surveys to obtain data on remote learning and training,
- remote observational research via video,
- self-collection of biospecimens (e.g., a cheek swab or spit kit) mailed to a lab for analysis,
- video data provided by the participants,
- data analysis, either secondary use projects or data analysis activities on other projects.
The IRB Office is open for business (remotely) and research continues to be reviewed and approved by the IRB.

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COVID-19 Info & Updates
https://www.nyu.edu/research/resources-and-support-offices/getting-started-with-your-research/human-subjects-research/IRBCoronavirus.html

The IRB will review research regardless of whether it is in-person or remote research. In most cases, in-person research activities may not begin until the COVID-19 ban on in-person interactions is lifted.

Review priority during the COVID-19 Pandemic

- Research on COVID-19
- Research on remote learning
- Modifications from in-person to remote data collection